

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 132952
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 IO-14 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 NEA-11 ISO-00 /106 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P BRUSSELL:PCM
APPROVED BY AF/P RHOLLIDAY
-----111500 251055Z /14

R 250722Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 132952

AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS STATE 132952

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 24, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN
BUYING UP THE WORLD SUPPLY OF COBALT -- WHICH, AMONG OTHER
THINGS, WOULD SUGGEST A FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE SHABA
EPISODE. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA IF THIS IS TRUE?

A. LET ME SAY THAT BEFORE THE RECENT DISTURBANCES IN
SHABA, THERE WAS ALREADY CONSIDERABLE UPWARD PRESSURE ON
WORLD COBALT PRICES DUE TO PRODUCTION PROBLEMS IN THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 132952

MINES, TRANSPORTATION BOTTLENECKS, AND STRIKES. MANY MAJOR
CONSUMERS, INCLUDING AMERICAN AND WEST EUROPEAN COMPANIES,
AS WELL AS THE SOVIET UNION, WERE IN THE MARKET BUYING
IN ANTICIPATION OF FURTHER PRICE HIKES THIS SUMMER.
THE RECENT REPORTED SOVIET PURCHASES OF SEVERAL
HUNDRED TONS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH SUCH HEDGE BUYING.
BUT AS TO THE MOTIVATIONS OR THE KNOWLEDGE OF THOSE IN
THE SOVIET UNION WHO DECIDE WHEN AND HOW MUCH COBALT
TO PURCHASE, THAT I CAN'T HELP YOU ON.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ONE WAY OR THE
OTHER REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF ABOUT THE
INVOLVEMENT OF CUBANS OR SOVIETS IN THE SHABA INVASION?

A. I AM GOING TO REFER YOU TO THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE
BRIEFING HERE ON FRIDAY. I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD.

Q. THAT MEANS THAT IT'S STILL THE BELIEF THAT THE CUBANS
TRAINED THE KATANGESE JUST BEFORE THE INVASION OR
RECENTLY?

A. I'M GOING TO STAND ON THE STATEMENTS THAT WERE MADE

IN THE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY.

Q: IS IT FAIR TO ASSUME THEN THAT SINCE YOUR FRIDAY ANSWER STILL STANDS -- THAT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS -- THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER EVIDENCE FOUND TO INDICATE ANY CUBAN OR SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE INVASION.

A: I AM STANDING ON THAT STATEMENT, AND THE REASON I AM STANDING ON THAT STATEMENT IS THAT I HAVE SEEN THE INFORMATION WHICH BACKS IT UP; AND I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY NEW INFORMATION THAT HAS COME IN SINCE THE INFORMATION WHICH LED ME TO MAKE THAT STATEMENT ON FRIDAY.

Q: ARE ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING SOME UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 132952

WHO HADN'T SEEN IT WHEN YOU MADE THE STATEMENT FRIDAY, NOW BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON IT?

A: I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. AS I SAID ON FRIDAY, THAT WAS NEW INFORMATION; AND I DON'T THINK IT HAD RECEIVED WIDE DISSEMINATION IN THIS BUILDING AT THAT POINT. I'M GOING TO STAND WHERE I WAS.

Q: CAN YOU TAKE A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT HAS, OR THE GOVERNMENT HAS, MADE AN EFFORT TO CHECK OUT THE VERACITY OF REPORTS THAT CAME IN LAST WEEK ABOUT PRISONERS FROM THE REBEL FORCES SAYING THAT THEY HAD BEEN LED AND COMMANDED BY CUBANS AND WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT'S MADE ANY DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THOSE REPORTS ARE TRUE?

A: I AM NOT AWARE OF SUCH REPORTS.

Q: THERE WERE SEVERAL FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, FRENCH AND BELGIAN, DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE FIGHTING LAST WEEK.

A: WELL, WHAT IS THE QUESTION YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO TAKE -- WHETHER WE BELIEVE THE REPORTS? ARE THESE PRESS REPORTS?

Q: BASICALLY, YES.

A: I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT ADVOCATE AN ALTERATION OF THE CLARK AMENDMENT TO ALLOW THE TRANSSHIPMENT OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THIRD COUNTRIES INTO ANGOLA OR TO SOME GROUP THAT MAY BE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 132952

A: I DO HAVE SOMETHING ON THAT FOR YOU. I WILL SEE IF I CAN FIND IT HERE.

THERE ARE NOW CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS ON THE GENERAL

QUESTION OF LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ABILITY EFFECTIVELY TO CONDUCT FOREIGN POLICY. IT IS INCORRECT TO INTERPRET THESE CONSULTATIONS AS SUGGESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED THAT A CHANGE SHOULD BE MADE IN OUR POLICY. THIS IS THE CASE FOR ANGOLA AS IT IS FOR OTHER AREAS OF U.S. POLICY.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED CONGRESS TO LOOK AT THE GENERAL QUESTION OF RESTRICTIONS ON HIS ABILITY TO FULFILL HIS FOREIGN POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES. NO IMPLICATIONS SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM THIS REQUEST THAT THE HE IS AT THIS TIME SEEKING TO CHANGE ANY SPECIFIC PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESS ARE CONSISTENT WITH OUR DESIRE AND OUR EFFORT TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH CONGRESS ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS, AS SHOULD BE OBVIOUS, AND I HAVE BEEN STATING IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM THIS PODIUM, THIS GOVERNMENT IS COMPLYING WITH THE LAW AS IT IS WRITTEN NOW. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF CIRCUMVENTING THE LAW.

Q: WELL, IS A CHANGE TO PERMIT THE TRANSSHIPMENT OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO GROUPS FIGHTING IN ANGOLA UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE GOVERNMENT? YOU SAY NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. IS IT BEING CONSIDERED?

A: NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE WITH REGARD TO THIS ON-GOING REVIEW OF VARIOUS PIECES OF LEGISLATION. ONE PIECE OF LEGISLATION WHICH IS UNDER REVIEW, ALONG WITH A GREAT MANY OTHER PIECES OF LEGISLATION, IS THE AMENDMENT WHICH RESTRICTS OUR ABILITY TO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 132952

ANGOLA. THE STUDY IS UNDERWAY NOW. THE STUDY IS NOT COMPLETE. THE STUDY WILL BE MADE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS. AND I AM NOT GOING TO BE IN A POSITION OF PREJUDGING WHAT THE RESULTS OF THAT STUDY WILL BE.

I HAVE SAID THAT WE INTEND TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW AS WRITTEN.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORTS THAT ADMIRAL
TURNER AND SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE
ASKED KEY MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE WHETHER
THEY THINK THAT A TRANSSHIPMENT OF ARMS INTO ANGOLA WOULD
BE FORBIDDEN BY THE CLARK AMENDMENT?

A: NO, I DON'T REALLY HAVE A PARTICULAR COMMENT ON THOSE
REPORTS. I HAVE SEEN THEM. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO
DETAIL FOR YOU THE SPECIFICS OF VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS
WHICH MAY BE HELD ON THE HILL.
CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE132952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780220-1141
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780519/aaaaapgv.tel
Line Count: 235
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbaaba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2566266
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 24, 1978 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECE SSARY
TAGS: SOPN, MOPS, AMGT, CU, UR, US
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbaaba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014